

(Washington, DC) -

On Friday, Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson released the following statement regarding the January unemployment report. The report showed 598,000 jobs were cut last month, pushing the unemployment rate to 7.6 percent, up from 7.2 percent in December. This is the highest unemployment rate since 1992 and the largest one-month job loss since December 1974.

"Our economy is bleeding jobs. Almost 600,000 people lost their jobs last month, and they're now part of a growing group of millions seeking employment.

Every job lost represents a family that is experiencing excruciatingly difficult choices. It means health care is extremely difficult to afford. It means college costs become even more unmanageable. It means mortgage bills become difficult to pay.

The recovery bill passed by the House and being considered by the Senate would invest in our communities. It would send much needed funds to schools to keep teachers in class rooms and repair our schools. It would put people to work immediately rebuilding our infrastructure. It would help us become more energy efficient and less affected by gas prices and other energy costs.

The one thing we absolutely cannot afford is to maintain the same policies that got us into this predicament. We need a down payment on a better economy. Economists from many backgrounds have said the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is going to help us save and create jobs. We need action. We need to invest in our country and create jobs."

